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ABSTRACT

This book is intended to introduce teachers to the practices of "environmental education," and is the first in a series published by the Institute for Environmental Education. The series focus is on problem-solving in the community as the subject matter for environmental education. Problem-solving is used as a process of investigatory discovery using a variety of subject disciplines. The materials in this book are organized as suggestions to other teachers on how they might integrate study of community environmental concerns into their present courses. The book contains six chapters that cover: (1) environmental education and the learning process; (2) incorporating environmental problem studies into teaching; (3) identifying a concern, planning the investigation, assessing the plan, and preparing to study outside the school; (4) evaluation, productivity, grading, and credit in environmental problem studies; (5) finding and using resources; and (6) building a support base for environmental problem studies in the school and community. Fifteen appendices contain a variety of supporting materials including an annotated bibliography of educational methods and philosophy; some possible questions for study; examples of questions designed to test higher levels of cognition; making a watershed reference map; sample blanket permission slip covering activities for the entire year; sample program for a PTA meeting; sample environmental study forms; sample self-evaluation vehicle; student tasks to help develop awareness about community and the skills needed for getting and using information; a sample environmental problem study; learning skills types; sample problem team report form; the force-field approach to problem solving; principles and conditions of learning; and the annotated curriculum activities guide series. (LZ)

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